

*The MLCT has developed a plan to protect the Neck River corridor, the only river that runs its entire course in the town. The goal was furthered by the purchase of the Neck River Uplands, 115 acres of land that drain a significant portion of the river's upper watershed. The corridor, currently 160 acres, connects to other MLCT holdings and to sites protected by the Regional Water Authority, the Nature Conservancy, and other groups.*



*Photo by the Madison Land Conservation Trust*

Several ridges alternating with narrow valley wetlands. The hike includes a massive rock outcrop and a beautiful section along the Neck River. A pow-erline right-of-way provides good deer viewing in early evening.

The Neck River Trail (1.1+ miles) offers a remarkable variety of ecological settings including a stretch along the Neck River, a forest rich in conifers including pines and spruce, and sections of an oak-hickory forest more typical of this area of Connecticut. The trail connects to the Blinnshed Ridge. The trail passes through what was an old charcoal pit. Charcoal is still evident in the soil with the remains of several other pits scattered throughout this stand. The pits can be distinguished by their raised shape and circumscripting ditch.

These trails combine Madison Land Conservation Trust proper-ties and areas of the Cockaponset State Forest. The trails can be walked individually or combined. The Blinnshed Loop (1.5 miles) offers an excellent and easy walk through a variety of second growth forest settings. There are a few boggy areas—and waterproof footwear is recommended. The undulating topography and associated wetlands are special features of this walk. Especially impressive is the extensive wetland near the beginning of the trail.

The Blinnshed Ridge (approx. 2 miles) can be connected to the Blinnshed Loop and the Neck River trail and passes through forest communities that include

### Directions and Parking:

This trail grouping is best reached via Opening Hill Road. Opening Hill Road can be accessed off Durham Road (Route 79) directly from the north or from the south from War-pas Road, to Winterhill Road and finally connecting to Opening Hill.

### Permitted Activities:

The trails areas in the MLCT proper-ties are for hiking only. Dogs are allowed, but must be leashed. Please pick up all animal waste. Contact the State Forest HQ for other activities allowed on their sites.

*This project made possible through a grant from the National Recreational Trails Pro-gram, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.*



*The descriptive information for this trail is ex-cerpted from the MLCT's Madison Trails Guide.*

**For more information about this location, contact:**

Madison Land Conservation Trust  
www.madisonlandtrust.org  
State Forest—Eastern District HQ  
(860) 295-9523

**South Central Regional Council of Governments**

127 Washington Avenue, 4th Floor West  
North Haven, CT 06473

Phone: (203) 234-7555  
Fax: (203) 234-9850  
E-mail: trails@scrcog.org

# 34

## BLINNSHED LOOP/RIDGE AND NECK RIVER

*Madison, CT*

# BLINNSHED LOOP/RIDGE AND NECK RIVER

*Madison, Connecticut*

